

magistrate. Mr. Sherard mentions also that "Germinal"

— for that was the hook which proceeded from Zola's sojourn among the pitmen — was known in every mining village which he visited. There was not a *coron* where at least one well-thumbed copy of the work could not be found: a proof of the appreciation in which it was held by the toilers on whose behalf it had been written.

The preliminary study which "Germinal" necessitated, the long sojourn among new and strange scenes, the strong interest, the compassion roused by all Zola saw and heard, most certainly proved very beneficial to him, reinvigorating him, checking his hypochondriacal tendency, diverting his mind from self, renewing and enlarging his ideas. Thus he was again in possession of physical and mental strength when he began the actual writing of the book. Like his more recent novels it was published *en feuilleton* by the "Gil Bias";<sup>a</sup> and an English version, prepared by Mr. Albert Vandam, appeared in a London weekly newspaper, "The People."<sup>2</sup>

While the serial issue was in progress Zola was once again accused of plagiarism. This time he was said to have borrowed the idea of "Germinal" from a story called "Le

<sup>1</sup> About this time, that is late in 1884, there appeared

another volume of  
Zola's short stories : "Nais Micoulin," Paris, Oharpentier,  
18mo, 384pages;  
twenty-five copies on India, one hundred on Dutch paper.  
Besides "Nais"  
the volume contained : " Nantas," "La Mort d'Olivier  
Be'caille," " Madame  
Neigeon," "Les Goquillages de M. Chabre," and "Jacques  
Damour." All  
these tales will also be found in Marpon and Flammarion's  
popular "Col-  
lection des Auteurs celebres."  
<sup>2</sup> Under date November 20, 1884, Zola sold all his rights  
in "Germinal"  
for Great Britain to Mr. W. T. Madge, manager of " The  
People." Yizetelly  
& Co. acquired book rights from the latter and published a  
fuller transla-  
tion. Their rights were subsequently purchased by E. A.  
Yizetelly and sold  
by him to Chatto and Windus.